HOW THE KAISER PREPARED TO HURL HIS THUNDERBOLT

Staggering Achievement of Mobilizing Million Men Along Border Made Possible by Plans of Half Century.

The staggering achievement of mobilizing an army of 1,000,000 in 10 days, of massing that army on the German frontier by the 10th day and not only all that—of pressing it across the line into France in that time—has been accomplished.

How was it done? How could it possibly be done? Simply because the job was begun a half century ago—thousands of engineers, transportation experts and economists have given their best thought to this gigantic undertaking ever since the Franco-Prussian war ended, and even before that.

Germany has known that some day this million would be called to the border of France. She has spent half a century getting ready for it. The machine worked with the smoothness of a single unit. Every bale of hay, every can of food, every shot, every pound of powder and pair of army shoes were made the subject of scientific forethought. Every soldier, every army horse and wagon was taken into consideration.

On the 10th day the German army was moving into France steadily and fully equipped for any emergency, three corps had been engaged storming Liege for almost a week. The battle line, mobolized in 10 days, extended from the Swiss border near Basle to the north of Liege in Belgium.

A German thunderbolt consisting of 70,000 infantry, 50,000 cavalry, 4,000 heavy field guns and howitzers and 1,200 machine guns!

And behind this million stood another million in reserve!

The rapid mobolization to the German army just made is one of the greatest military triumphs of the age in face of the almost stupendous difficulties which must be met in its accomplishment. Not only must all normal traffic on railways and highways be thrown into confusion at once by a single order from the kaiser, but new military schedules for the movement of troops and horses and provisions must be inaugurated and set in motion at once. And all this must be done quickly. The most sanguine of military experts believed it would take two weeks—possibly three—some said more—to reach France.

How was this giant undertaking accomplished so quickly?

Not by the genius of any one man—a Napoleon—not by a sudden idea which cast the scattered hordes into one unit. It was done because the German war office was ready! The scratch of a pencil put the barracks on wheels, the millions in stored provisions in cars, the guns in motion, the cavalry on their horses, all forging ahead towards the border with their every step planned in advance.

The movement of troops via railways in the enormous numbers required by modern warfare, demands the requisition of every available car on wheels in the empire.

Hannibal owed his victories against the Romans largely to the dispatch with which he moved his armies. If important in Hannibal's time, this question of rapid transportation is tenfold important now.

The German general staff, which has directed this undertaking to a successful end, had full control of the highways and the railroads. Waterways were also at the disposal of the troops the moment the word was given.

Furthermore, the general staff knew just where to mass their troops and these points of convergence have been carefully planned for the present emergency. In building railways the German government always considers first and for all, their strategic importance in time of war.

The general staff knew the exact condition of every siding and freight yards in the empire and the exact position of each freight car and coach.

Another factor which greatly facilitated the German mobilization is the national practice of making 90 per cent of its railway employes soldiers. Thus, when Von Moltke undertook to load his troops on trains, the engineers, conductors and other officers were full fledged fighting men whose particular business it was to transport troops in the quickest possible time.

In Berlin is what is known as a transportation corps, a unit of the war office upon whose discretion and efficiency Emperor William has depended more, or as much, in this call to the colors as any other. On this division all may easily depend. Nothing, perhaps, could have wrought more permanent disaster to the German lines than delay or mixup or trouble in getting the kaiser's soldiers over the war border into Belgium and France.

In a glass case in this department the entire railway system of Germany is represented on an unique map which shows even minutest details, where trains are located at a given time, the convergence of trunk and branch lines, the location of stations, sidings, etc. Moving electric buttons show where every train it at any moment.

When the mobilization order was given, taxicabs, private motors and other vehicles were at once pressed into the service of the government. These were used for officers' movements, for the transportation of food and men to the trains backed up on sidings waiting for them.

This million soldiers on the German frontier, wrenched from the heart of the fatherland, many of them from peaceful pursuits, were well fed, well clothed soldiers whose board is costing the German government $2,000,000 a day. Tons upon tons of canned meats and vegetables and countless barrels of flour entered into the needs of mobilization. And the most careful precautions to protect further food supply were of paramount importance.

The soldiers are fed largely on "pea sausage," which contains pea flour, bacon, salt and meal and which is exceedingly nutritious and wholesome.

The victory of this successful and rapid mobilization will rest largely on the heads of the intelligence department of the war office, which has been the "eyes" of the general staff in the present undertaking. Topography, movements of troops, strategy all come under this heading. In this division are the most brilliant and progressive officers in the entire German army. It is to them largely that the rapid movement towards the border will be credited.

When once this word of "mobolize" was given, every officer, every man, every hostler and trainman knew what would be required of him within 24 hours. It is all written down in advance, plainly, so that no one could misunderstand. There was no necessity for repeat orders, for mistakes to occur.

Every year, during field maneuvers, the German army goes through what practically is a mobilization—or as near one as is advisable. The stunts required of a hasty jump to the border are practiced time and again by officers and men. This means that when the call came they were ready!

In three hours from the time the order reached Berlin the first trainload of men was on its way toward Belgium, fully equipped and armed!

At different points in every part of the German empire, especially at important junctions, officers are stationed who are called "line commissioners," and these keep themselves informed of the conditions of their railways in their district—the number of locomotives and cars in existence, etc. Their reports give the general staff an exact and complete knowledge of what they may expect to find in every section of the empire and they may lay their plans accordingly.

Also in order to forestall the congestion of provisions at junctional convergences, these shipments were so timed that when one load left a given point another followed it. There was no chaos and consequent delay on station platform.

As soon as the order for "mobilization" reaches the "line officer," he immediately takes possession of every railway within his jurisdiction, while other officers were placed in charge of stations. Military trains then have the right of way undisputed.

The "line commissioner" always knows just what quantity and kinds of cars are needed at all times. He knows when and where they must be ready and when they must start.

It was stated by a German military authority recently that the German army mobilized twice as many men in one-half the time required at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war. This is because of the improvement of military equipment and the ceaseless efforts of Germany to have her army ready to fling at the enemy immediately.

Whatever the German army may accomplish as a fighting machine in the present conflict, it is certain that it won its first great victory in a mobilization which, for its rapidity and efficiency, startled the civilized world.

CUT DOWN DEATHS FROM SICKNESS

Advance of Surgical and Medical Science Insures Lesser Inroads on Army by Disease.

BY A U. S. ARMY SURGEON.

In the American Civil war eight soldiers died of disease to one from wounds. Experts expect that in the present general European struggle not more than three will fall victim to sickness to one killed on the field of battle.

Such is the advance of army sanitation and army surgery in fifty years. The Americans and the Japanese have been the leaders. The United States army hospitals have installed many remarkable innovations since the Spanish-American war with its dreadful lesson in the danger of typhoid and these new ideas have been adopted by the army surgeon of old world powers.

So it is expected that the present war, the greatest yet in history, also will be the most humane. There will be no disproportionate mortality list from disease and no army of cripples as an aftermath.

The modern high-power, quick-firing military rifle and the development in artillery will have much to do with the change.

Those who die will die more quickly. Gangrene and infection will be practically unknown quantities, it is thought.

Before the Russo-Japanese conflict the armies the world over used a high calibre bullet, made of unsheathed lead and greased to overcome friction in the barrel.

The muzzle velocity was less than half that of the missiles now employed.

Then, to, bayonet and sabre charges were more common. These resulted in hideous wounds, very difficult for surgeons to handle.

The bullets which are flying in Europe today are of less diameter than the ordinary lead pencil. They are jacketed with nickel, lead or steel and have tremendous velocity.

The soft, mushrooming bullet of the old day resulted in the shattering of bones and the crushing, rather than cutting, of tissues. Infection was almost inevitable, the grease being especially unsanitary. A wound in the abdomen was considered necessarily fatal. The death rate among the wounded was enormous.

In recent campaigns there are instances where soldiers shot in what were once considered vital spots have walked unsupported to the field hospitals.

Germany used a Mauser rifle, with a bullet of 8 mm. calibre, steel and copper coated. Great Britain's missile is the Lee-Enfield, calibre 7.7 mm., the coating being cupro-nickel.

Use Nickel Coated Bullets.

The French weapon is the Lebel rifle, of 8 mm. calibre, with bullets coated with nickel. Russia uses Mossin-Nagant rifles, calibre 7.62 mm., with bullets cupro-nickel coated. Austria's chief small arm is the Mannlicher, calibre 8 mm., with a steel sheet over the tip.

Hitting a man beyond 350 yards the wounds inflicted by all these bullets are clean cut. They frequently pass through bone tissue without splintering.

When meeting an artery the bullet usually pushes it to one side and goes around without cutting the blood channel.

Amputations are very rare compared with wars of more than fifty years ago. A bullet wound through a joint, such as the knee or the elbow, then necessitated the amputation of the limb. Now such a would is easily opened and dressed.

Even Russia, which made a sad sanitary showing in the war with Japan, now has learned her lesson and has efficient surgical arrangements.

All the nations use vaccine to combat typhoid, the scourge which once decimated camps and killed 1,600 in our Spanish war.

Every army division (13,000 to 15,000 men) is supplied with four field hospitals, each capable of caring for 108 patients. There are also two evacuation hospitals, with a capacity of 700 each, for each division. The evacuation hospitals send the more seriously wounded back to the hospitals at home.

Then every officer is instructed in first aid treatment. This alleviates a great deal of suffering on the field of battle.

Next to typhoid dysentery is the great army scourge. This is attacked by sterilizing the drinking water.

History shows sanitation has often determined the fate of nations. In 1792, when the fine Prussian troops marched to the relief of Louis XVI the raw levies of the young republic met and repulsed them. Gen. Du Mouries, commander of the French troops, shows clearly in his report that the Prussians had been unfitted for service by dysentery. Ordinary sanitary precautions would have prevented this.

SUMMER CONSTIPATION DANGEROUS.

Constipation in Summer-time is more dangerous than in the fall, winter or spring. The food you eat is often contaminated and is more likely to ferment in your stomach. Then you are apt to drink much cold water during the hot weather, thus injuring your stomach. Colic, Fever, Ptomaine Poisoning and other ills are natural results. Po-Do-Lax will keep you well, as it increases the Bile, the natural laxative, which rids the bowels of the congested poisonous waste. Po-Do-Lax will make you feel better. Pleasant and effective. Take a dose tonight. 50c at your Druggist. —Advt.

A memorial has just been unveiled

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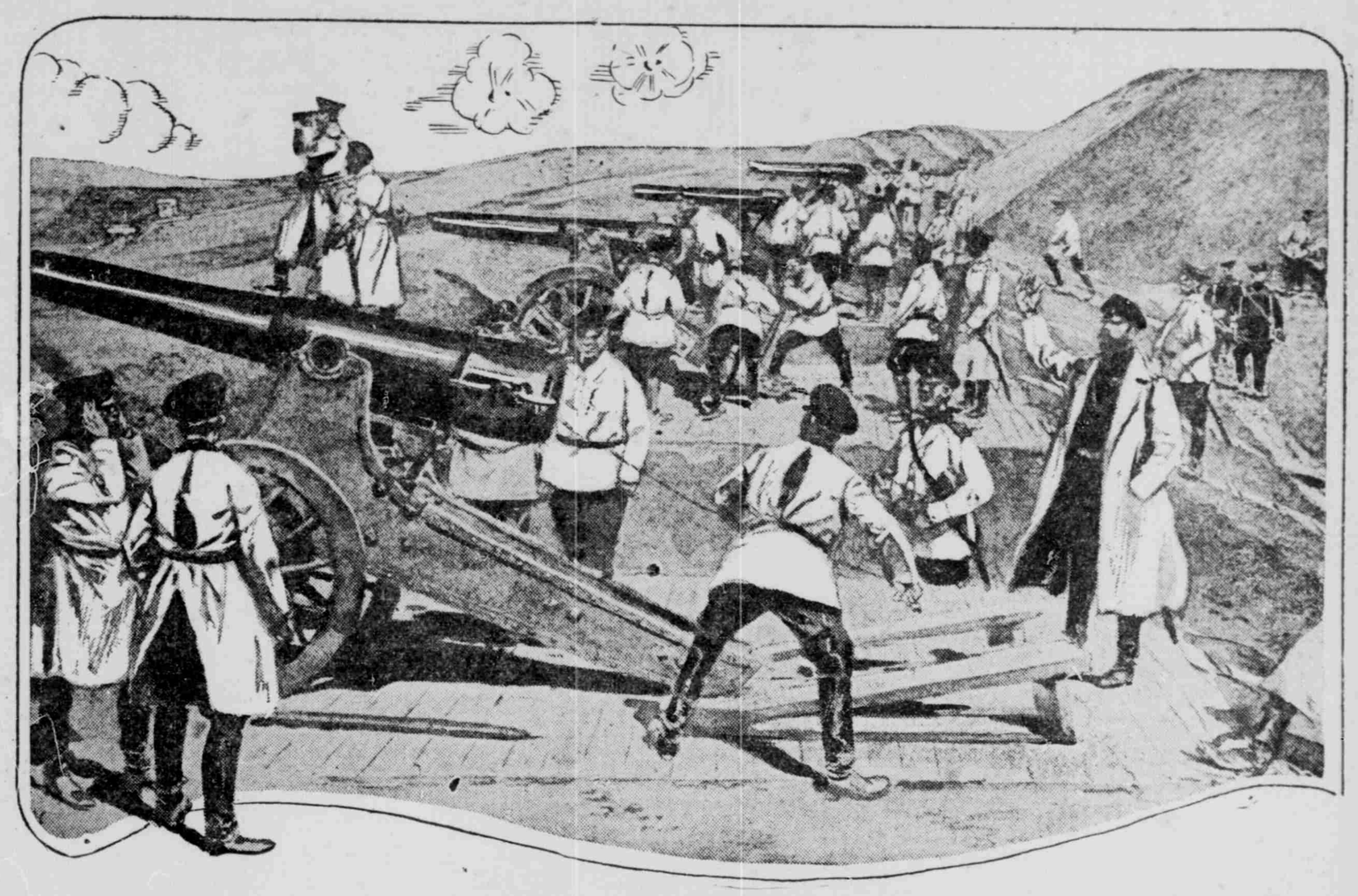
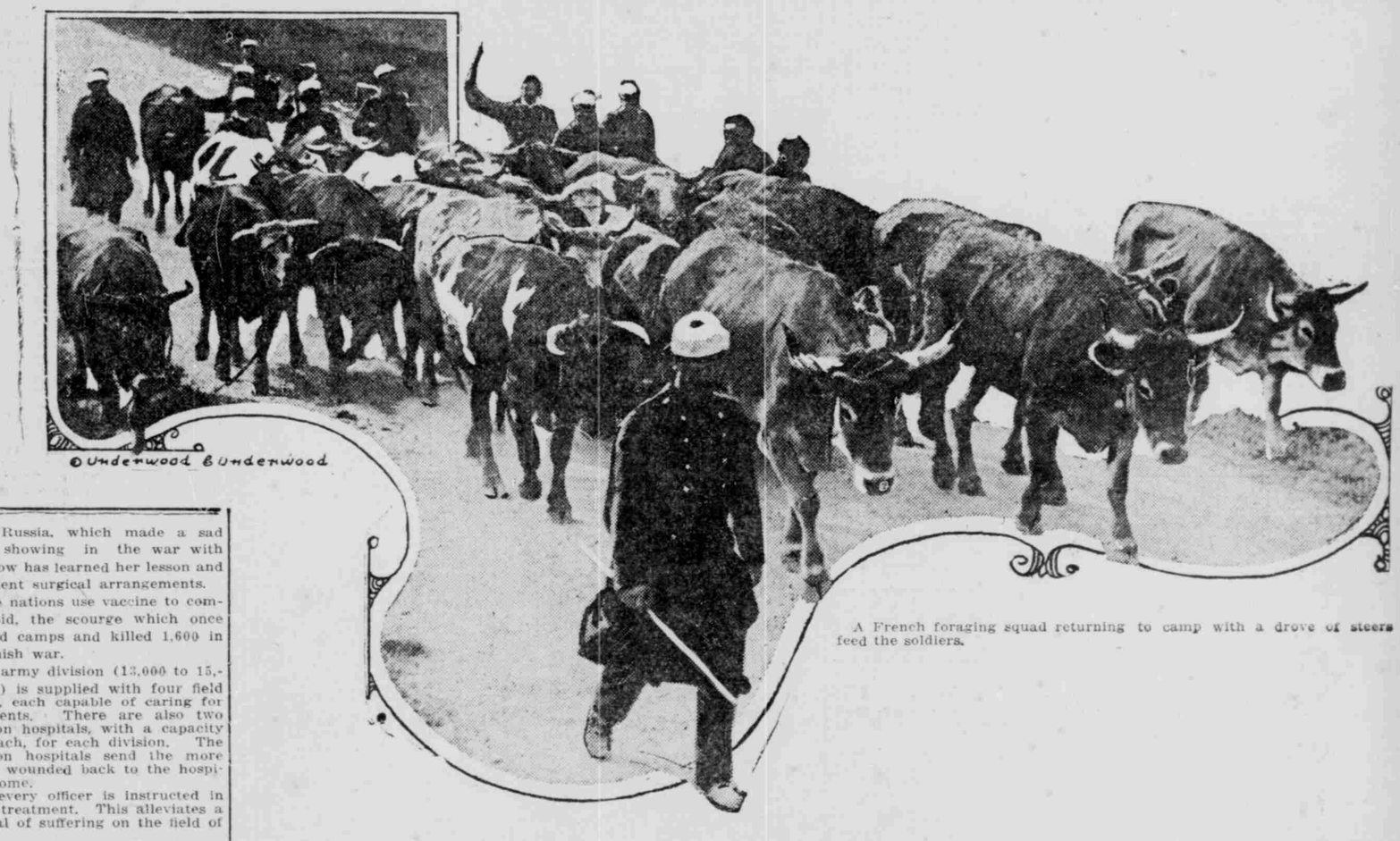
EVENTS AND SCENES OF THE WAR IN EUROPE



Drawing showing actual scene of Russian artillery in big siege-gun maneuvers. The Russian army has penetrated so far into Prussia that they soon will come up to the big German fortresses when a scene like the above will be part of the war.



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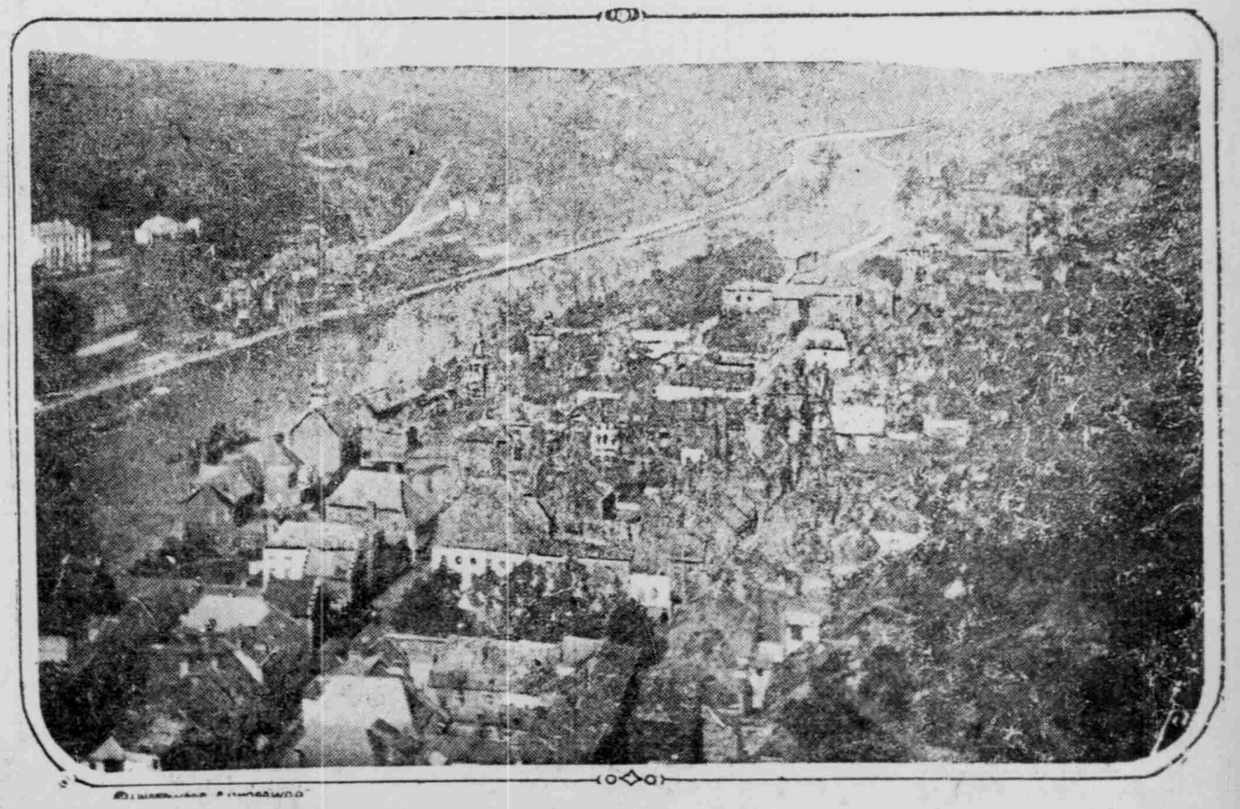
A French foraging squad returning to camp with a drove of steers to feed the soldiers.



This is the Belgium river, on the banks of which the Germans have been fighting for nearly three weeks. They now control both sides of it. At Dinant they won a battle which enabled them to throw a great army across the river. This photograph was taken from the citadel heights at Dinant, looking north.